



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

GOOD PIGS AND LAMBS FOR YOU.

Those in want of good pigs will find by referring to our advertising columns, that they can be accommodated by calling on Mr. John Kezer of Winthrop.

Mr. K. has an excellent breed of hogs; they partake largely of the celebrated Chester County hog, so well known in the middle States. They are of a pure white color, are long of body, broad shouldered and deep chested, and very docile and quiet.

We made a call on his piggery the other day, and were much pleased with the appearance of his swine, and both amused and instructed with his mode of management. We are satisfied that no man understands better than Mr. Kezer the art of keeping swine in good order, at so little cost as he does. He has promised us to give at some future day, his mode in detail, for the benefit of the readers of the farmer. One great principle in the management of swine during the winter, we found well carried out in his establishment, and that is warm and dry quarters. His pen though not large was well arranged, and the sleeping apartments were well littered, so as to furnish them with a good dry bed all the time. One article which he used for this purpose was dry leaves gathered from the forest in Autumn, just before the snow fell. He had laid in a large store of these, and they were excellent for the purpose of littering his swine, cattle and sheep.

Mr. Kezer is also adopting the system of allowing his lambs to come early, any time from Christmas to March. He had some fine large lambs dropped during that exceedingly cold weather about Christmas time. The requisites for success in this department which he has adopted, are a hardy breed of sheep, good keep, and warm and dry quarters.

His sheep are a cross of Cotswold and other breeds, and his feed is good hay and oilmeal. They are kept housed in clean well littered dry pens. The lambs and sheep looked remarkably well, and the sheep had heavy fleeces.

The lambs will be ready for the butcher very early, and will command an extra price.

TIME TO CUT SCIONS.

Orchardists in this vicinity generally refrain from cutting scions until about the middle of March. The reasons for this are obvious.

Scions kept best on the tree. If suffered to remain there until near the time of setting, you will have less time to preserve them artificially. They should be cut before the buds begin to swell, and as they do not generally swell in this latitude until the middle of April or first of May, the month of March is a very good time in which to cut them.

Many begin to cut scions in this section during the last days of March. From appearances now we think the season will do for it soon. Scions set thus early with us, should be well secured, in order to enable them to withstand the high winds which we frequently have in Spring.

In cutting scions see that they have not been winter-killed. Some branches that continued to grow late in the fall, do not mature their wood, and are therefore juicy and tender. The winter freezes the sap or juices, and destroys their vitality. It is labor lost to set such scions.

GET READY FOR PLANTING TREES.

Old winter still holds on to us yet, and it doesn't look like setting out trees at the present time; but old Sol is advancing northwards, and will soon bring the time when the earth will be ready to receive the gifts of the farmer. It is, however, a good time to think over the matter of the coming spring campaign, and lay out the work in your mind, what trees you will plant, and how you will plant them. One word of advice. Whatever kind or species of tree, let the be the rule. Let the tree be a thrifty, healthy, well shaped one. We like the doctrine expressed in the statement given by E. F. Gunn, of Montague, Mass., to the committee of the Franklin County (Mass.) Society.

In planting his orchard he says that thirty were driven into the ground thirty by thirty-two feet, and holes dug three feet in diameter, and eighteen inches deep before a tree was set. The roots were immersed in water for a few minutes, and then fine loam thrown on them—about half a bushel of compost was used to each tree, taking care not to let it touch the roots. After the tree was set, old hay and straw were put around the body for a couple of feet, and top of this small stones. This mulching he thinks should never be omitted. He also advises to never set a poor, unsightly tree; throw it away, give it away, do any thing with it, but don't set it in the orchard.

ILLUSTRIOUS TRADESMEN. The doctrine of Islamism teach that no one may be above his destiny; that every one may learn a vocation whereby he may earn his bread; if predestined to do so. A curious list is given in Marjaja of the occupations of patriarchs, caliphs, and sultans, which commences with the first man: Adam till the ground; Noah was a carpenter; Abram a weaver; David made coats of mail; Solomon made baskets of the date-tree; the Caliph Omar manufactured skins; Othman sold stables; Ali, the cousin of the Prophet, hired himself to a master for a salary. The Ottoman sovereigns did not think it beneath them to submit to this law, in imitation of so many eminent examples. Thus Mohammed II. sold flowers; Soliman the Great made slippers; Ahmet I. made ebony cases and boxes; Ahmet III. excelled in writing, and in embellishing the canonical books; Selim II. printed muslins. (Dean's Ottoman Empire.

For the Maine Farmer.

A DISH OF HASH.

MR. EDITOR:—In No. 10, of the current volume of the Farmer, an article of inquiry on shingles, and paint for the same, followed by some valuable editorial, reminds me that some of my own experience in these matters may as well in this connection, as at any other time, be put into the common stock.

In the summer of 1840, I had occasion to new shingle a barn, and commenced to prepare the shingles by soaking them in large tubs containing a strong solution of salt and lime. By keeping the contents of the tubs well agitated, I gave the shingles a good coating of lime. The shingles were saved from dry rot, and of course would imbibe pretty freely of the salt.

I pursued this course with the shingles for one side of the roof, and becoming in a hurry to complete the job, laid the other side without any preparation, then gave the shingles a good soaking with the contents of the tubs, well spread on with a broom.

Now for the result on the soaked shingles. After about five years, these shingles began to have a very unsightly habit of leaving their place in the roof, and flying about the premises, to the great annoyance of biddies and bipeds, on all occasions of high winds. On inspection the nails proved to be rusted entirely away, I suppose by the action of the salt. (Query.—Would the nails have been preserved in this way, by first immersing them in linseed oil?)

The barn having gone out of my possession, I have not examined the roof during the last year, but from last year, I concluded that the shingles soaked before being laid, would endure at least double the period allotted to the best unprepared shingles.

Since that experiment, I have on several occasions applied to roofs, white-wash made in various ways, all of which I believe have well paid the cost.

In April, 1852, I washed the west side of a large roof, after a recipe we often meet with in books, containing lime, salt, sugar and whiting. The roof is still white, and the effect of the wash is unquestionably beneficial.

Last summer I built a barn, octagonal form, and designing it for a durable structure, painted the shingles of the roof as they were being laid. Instead of laying the shingles by a line in the usual manner, we used boards dressed to the width that the shingles were to lay to the weather, tacking down the board firmly in place, and covering the butts of the last course laid, we painted the shingles above the board, laying the next course over the paint, moving up the board and proceeding as before. Thus the paint, if carefully handled, is kept from the clothes of the workmen, and the application need not little impede the progress of the work. After the roof is shingled, commence at the top, paint the shingles down to the staging, remove that and proceed onward. To put on the second coat, work on a ladder laid on the roof.

To paint a roof, take a large brush, bore a hole in the end of a hoe handle and fit in the handle of the brush, thus giving your brush a handle four feet long. You can stand and throw the paint, and your work more perfectly and with less fatigue. Select for your time, dry warm weather, lay on your paint liberally, spread it across the shingles, filling the cracks, defects and nail holes, so that the paint shall run down freely to the next courses. Rub the paint well into the butts of the shingles, so that it shall well meet the paint laid on under the courses. A single roof made in this manner is tighter and every way better than one of slate, if I am right in guessing that it will be far more durable.

Let the reader not be too soon alarmed at the idea of the expense of paint. Send to a market town and buy pine oil by the barrel; you can get for 18 cents per gallon, and perhaps ought to have it for less. Get a barrel of hydraulic cement, at a cost of one or two dollars, and you are ready for operations. These two cheap articles are all you really need to add to shingles of ordinary quality, to make a roof that no single individual will live to see go to decay. It will take from two to three gallons of oil to a thousand shingles, to do the work in a thorough manner. And having these two articles on hand, you have the basis for paint of any shade that any of us can afford to sport to the public eye.

Let the reader of this article who has a house or other building to paint this Spring, delay not to send for a barrel each of pine oil and hydraulic cement. Send a good bag and a dollar to your honest merchant and order some dry white lime. He will send you a larger parcel than you can buy of flour at these times. Mix by measure, two parts cement to one of fine white pine oil, or if you distrust the virtue of the pine oil, mix with it. Mix enough at once for one coat over the building. To every ten gallons of mixed paint, add one pound of Venetian red, and two pounds of cheap yellow. This will give you a color more pleasing, more lasting, and at one-fifth or one-eighth the cost of the all prevailing, ever fading, sometimes dazzling, endless shades, each consuming, white. If your house has blinds, paint them with the same, except for the first coats use but little coloring with the cement, thus giving them a darker shade. The last coat may be the same over all.

I believe that no substance yet tested as a pigment, is destined to give so general satisfaction in this climate, for paint adapted to general use, as hydraulic cement. I am too poor to build and keep in repair the necessary buildings for a comfortable home, without using paint freely. And my impression is that most of the readers of the "Farmer" are laboring under the same embarrassment.

Now, to adhere to my intention of making "hash," I must lay out a little work for the Doctor. I am now preparing two thousand cedar stakes, six feet long, sharpened at each end, which I design to put up in about 100 rods of fence. The stakes are well seasoned, and the

most of them split. Now I wish to impregnate the ends of these stakes with some metallic solution, so that one end will endure for the space of one generation of man, and then by reversing, match the next generation.

Editors are often flattered with the idea that they are expected to know everything, and one might infer from a course of observation, that they are generally held as being thus exalted. For my own part, I am willing to concede to the veteran Editor of the "Farmer," he being a doctor, and during a long active life accustomed to guessing, a practical shrewdness at the Yankee accomplishment, that may well be invoked to help over the tall places poor mortals like myself, who never were schooled with chemistry nor much else.

Will the Editor or some correspondent "guess" whether coppers will answer my purpose, and if so, also guess how many hundred pounds I had better buy? Whether any other substance can with advantage be joined in the solution. Whether it will be better to use the least possible quantity of water, (three-fourths of a pound to one pound of coppers), or make it more dilute. Any suggestions touching this matter will be thankfully received if offered soon.

Fiscroft, March 5, 1855.

NOTE. The above dish of hash proves that our friend C. C. (he ought to have signed his name, is a first rate "hasher." He is a practical man, and his ideas are practical too. The nails he refers to, as being corroded by the salt, might have withstood a little longer if they had been boiled in linseed oil, but would ultimately have been corroded by the acid in the salt.

In regard to impregnating your cedar stakes with some metallic preparation, permit us to say, that they will endure in proportion to the depth they are impregnated. Sulphate of iron (coppers), or sulphate of copper (blue vitriol), will answer the purpose.

Mr. Kyan, of England, first experimented for this purpose, and hence the word "Kyanizing" used to designate this process. He found that if he could get a solution of corrosive sublimate (mariate of mercury), all through a stick of timber, it rendered it indestructible by rot. If it penetrated only a little way, the interior untouched and unchanged, and the hydrogous substance in the wood ultimately absorbed moisture through the pores or cracks, and caused rot. Corrosive sublimate is a very expensive article, and hence cheaper articles are used. The Portland & Kennebec Railroad Company went to great expense to Kyanize the sills of their road, by filling them with gas tar. It has been of some service, but as the tar did not penetrate but a little way, it will be seen that they must decay. Now, friend C, we guess that you can guess how long your stakes will last, as well as we can. (Ed.)

SEA WEED FOR DRESSING.

MR. EDITOR:—(We omit the introductory remarks of our correspondent, although we mean to continue worthy of his compliments.)

We often hear good ideas advanced by men of small pretensions; good workmen often learn from very inferior workmen knowledge which they never conceived of before, and which was of great value; therefore, brother farmers and mechanics, never mind if you never went to college, but let your thoughts flow, put them on paper, pay the postage and forward them to the editor, and if they are worth publishing, very well, if not, no harm is done. Every man in this State, who is in the possession of a house and barn, and keeps one or more cows, should take some good agricultural paper and read it carefully, especially such portions as hint at the way in which he should manage his household affairs, and not only read but practise the same. The subject of farming appears to be taking up the attention of the people of this State.—Why, some of the people "away Down East" begin to wake up to the subject, and it is time. We have good land, and many of us have sea dressing near at hand, and if we laid out the same labor, and put the same quantity of manure to the acre that farmers do in the western part of the State, there would not be so much complaint about poor land. As a general thing, we let your thoughts flow, put them on paper, pay the postage and forward them to the editor, and if they are worth publishing, very well, if not, no harm is done. Every man in this State, who is in the possession of a house and barn, and keeps one or more cows, should take some good agricultural paper and read it carefully, especially such portions as hint at the way in which he should manage his household affairs, and not only read but practise the same. The subject of farming appears to be taking up the attention of the people of this State.—Why, some of the people "away Down East" begin to wake up to the subject, and it is time. 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